

Message Text

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ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 /013 W
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R 200701Z JUL 76

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1288

INFO USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 8491

DEPT. FOR ST. MARS; PEKING FOR RSO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: RSS SECURITY RECOMMENDATIONS - USLO

1. THIS COMMUNICATION CONTAINS THE FIRST OF A SERIES OF SECURITY RELATED RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH WERE FORMULATED DURING A RECENT VISIT BY THE RSS TO THE USLO IN PEKING. EACH OF THE PROPOSALS OUTLINED IN THESE MESSAGES HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED WITH THE AMBASSADOR, DCM AND THE ADMIN/COUNSELOR AND RECEIVED CONCRURENCE AS WELL AS APPROVAL TO FORWARD TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR INITIAL STEPS IN IMPLEMENTATION.

2. FOR PURPOSES OF CLARIFICATION AND ACTION BY THE VARIOUS INTERESTED OFFICES IN THE DEPARTMENT, THE RECOMMENDATIONS HAVE BEEN GROUPED INTO SEPARATE CATEGORIES AND THE INITIAL PROPOSALS COVERED IN THIS MESSAGE ARE CONCERNED WITH FORTHCOMING PERSONNEL CHANGES.

A. RSO WATCHSTANDER ROBERT D. BOOTH, ASSIGNED FOR AN 18 MONTHS' TOUR OF DUTY, IS SCHEDULED TO DEPART FROM POST IN FEBRUARY 1977. WITH THIS EVENT, IT IS PROPOSED:

1. THAT RSO BOOTH'S REPLACEMENT BE SELECTED AND SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN USLO IN EARLY TO MID-OCTOBER. THIS WOULD PROVIDE ADDITIONAL MAN HOURS TO PERMIT RSO DEWIRE AND RSO WATCHSTANDER CHORNYAK AN OPPORTUNITY TO AVAIL THEMSELVES OF R&R PRIVILEGES. DEWIRE HAS INDICATED AN INTENTION TO LEAVE PEKING FOR THE MONTH COVERING

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CATED AN INTENTION TO LEAVE PEKING FOR THE MONTH COVERING

LATE OCTOBER UNTIL LATE NOVEMBER 1976 FOR PROPOSED R&R IN CONUS AND RSO CHORNYAK PROPOSES R&R FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 1976 IN EITHER CONUS OR S.E. ASIA (BALI). IN ADDITION RSO WATCHSTANDER BOCSKOR IS INTERESTED IN TWO WEEKS R&R DURING MID-JANUARY 1977 PERIOD.

2. THE REPLACEMENT FOR BOOTH COULD PROVIDE ADDITIONAL MAN HOURS DURING THESE PROPOSED ABSENCES AND SINCE PERMANENTLY ASSIGNED TO USLO, THE REPLACEMENT PRESENCE AT THE MISSION WOULD NOT BE IN VIOLATION OF TDY EXCLUSION AND WOULD ALSO PROVIDE TRAINING OVER-LAP WITH BOOTH.

E. IN CONSIDERATION OF BOOTH'S DEPARTURE FOLLOWED BY THE PCS DEPARTURE OF DEWIRE IN APRIL OR MAY 1977 THE RSS HAS RECOMMENDED TO THE POST WHICH HAS ADDED THEIR ENDORSEMENT THAT THE BOOTH REPLACEMENT BE EITHER:

(A) A PROFESSIONAL SECURITY OFFICER WITH PREVIOUS OVERSEAS ASSIGNMENT WHO WOULD BRING ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL SECURITY EXPERTISE TO USLO IN PEKING, OR

(B) SELECT A TSO WATCHSTANDER TO BE ASSIGNED TO THE USLO SECURITY GROUP WHO WOULD BRING URGENTLY REQUIRED TECHNICAL EXPERIENCE TO USLO. THIS TECHNICAL CAPABILITY WOULD BE USEFUL IN CONTINUITY OF TECHNICAL SWEEPS AND SUPPORTING THE SOON TO BE INITIATED AUTO-SCAN OPERATION, AS WELL AS INVOLVEMENT IN ALARM AND CCTV MAINTENANCE. IF RSO'S VOLUNTEER FOR THIS ONEROUS WATCHSTANDING DUTY, WHY NOT TSO'S?

4. IN THE EVENT OF EITHER A SELECTION OF A PROFESSIONAL RSO OR TSO AS DISCUSSED ABOVE FOR THE BOOTH REPLACEMENT, THE OTHER SUGGESTED QUALIFYING SPECIALIST SHOULD THEN BE SELECTED AS THE NEXT OPENING OCCURRED PRESUMABLY UPON THE DEPARTURE OF RSO DEWIRE.

5. THE AMERICAN STAFF IN PEKING WAS UNANIMOUS IN THEIR UNSTINTING PRAISE OF THE SY STAFF. DURING THE RSS VISIT THE EXECUTIVE ECHELON OFFICERS WERE EXPLICIT
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IN THEIR REQUEST FOR REPLACEMENT OFFICERS OF SIMILAR CALIBER AND BROAD FLEXIBILITY AS REPRESENTED IN THE PRESENT GROUP. THE RSS OBVIOUSLY SUBSCRIBES TO BOTH THE PRAISE OF THE PRESENT STAFF AND THE CONCERN OF THE AMBASSADOR AND DCM THAT THEIR REPLACEMENTS MUST BE CAREFULLY SELECTED FOR STABLE PERSONALITY CHARACTERISTICS AND THE ACCEPTANCE OF A FULL RANGE OF COLLATERAL RESPONSIBILITIES.

6. AT THE AMBASSADOR'S SUGGESTION, THE REGIONAL SECURITY SUPERVISOR REVIEWED THE NUMBER OF RSO WATCHSTANDERS WITH A POSSIBILITY OF ADDING TO THE UNIT. THE RSS IS SATISFIED THAT AT THE PRESENT TIME THE SCOPE OF THE DUTIES DO NOT REQUIRE ANY ADDITIONAL SY PERSONNEL. THE WATCH HOURS ARE ONEROUS, PARTICULARLY WHEN A WATCHSTANDER MEMBER GOES ON LEAVE BUT THIS MAY BE COMPENSATED BY OTHER PLOYS. NOR IS THE RSS AMENABLE TO ANY REDUCTION OF WATCH HOURS NOW BEING COVERED. THIS SHOULD BE A 24-HOURS A DAY, 7-DAYS A WEEK SITUATION.

7. ADMINISTRATIVELY THE RSO REPLACEMENTS SHOULD EITHER BE A SINGLE OFFICER OR MARRIED OFFICERS PREFERABLY WITHOUT CHILDREN, SINCE MEDICAL PROBLEMS OF DEPENDENTS WHICH MIGHT REQUIRE EVACUATION OR EMERGENCY ABSENCES FROM DUTY MIGHT PLACE A HEAVY STRAIN ON THE REMAINING WATCHSTANDERS. IN ADDITION, WITH A PROPOSED SUBSTANTIVE STAFF INCREASE AT USLO, HOUSING WILL BECOME MORE CRITICAL AND EVEN THOUGH APARTMENT ASSIGNMENTS ARE EQUITABLY CONTROLLED BY A HOUSING COMMITTEE, IT SEEMS INEVITABLE THAT MORE TIME WILL BE SPENT BY NEWLY ARRIVED STAFF MEMBERS IN HOTELS AWAITING HOUSING AVAILABILITY.

8. THE RSS WILL ADDRESS SEPARATE SUGGESTIONS TO SY ON ASSIGNMENTS FOR RSO DEWIRE AND RSO BOOTH PREVIOUS TO THEIR DEPARTURE FROM POST.

3. A FURTHER COMMUNICATION IS BEING PREPARED COVERING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TECHNICAL INSTALLATIONS IN USLO. EACH RECOMMENDATION HAS CONFERENCE CONCURRENCE WITH TOP LEVEL USLO ECHELONS.

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4. RSS HONG KONG AND UNDOUBTEDLY USLO WOULD APPRECIATE SY AND DEPARTMENTAL VIEWS ON THE FOREGOING SUGGESTIONS CROSS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976HONGK08491
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760278-0717
From: HONG KONG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760742/aaaabkde.tel
Line Count: 157
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SY
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 MAY 2004 by buchant0>; APPROVED <16 SEP 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RSS SECURITY RECOMMENDATIONS - USLO
TAGS: ASEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006